

Town of Embden



RESULTS OF 2013 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Meeting was called to order at 07:45 by the Town Clerk, Bonnie Baker.

Article 1: *Phil Curtis was elected to serve as moderator with a vote of 8-0. He was sworn in by the Town Clerk, and the meeting turned over to him. He appointed John Duff to serve as Deputy Moderator.*

Article 2: The following were elected:

Selectperson: Charles Taylor	(51 votes)
Town Clerk/Treasurer: Bonnie Baker	(52 votes)
Tax Collector: Ruth Blake	(51 votes)
Assessor: Wayne McLaughlin	(51 votes)
Road Commissioner: Michael Witham	(53 votes)
RSU #74 (3-yr): Melissa Miller	(3 votes)
RSU #74 (1-yr): Dwight Barron Jr.	(51 votes)

54 residents voted in the secret ballot election. The open portion of the Annual Town Meeting was attended by 54 people.

Article 3. To see if the Inhabitants will accept the following tax assessment and collection related questions:

- A. To see if the Inhabitants will authorize the Tax Collector and Treasurer to apply any property tax overpayment of less than \$20 to that person's next year's property taxes.
- B. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to charge the maximum rate of interest allowed by the State on all unpaid taxes beginning 30 days after commitment of said taxes or 30 days from the date of the tax bill(s) whichever is later (Rate being 7%).
- C. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to authorize citizens to pay their property taxes in two equal installments, the first one half of taxes assessed for the current year shall become due and payable in July 2013, the second one-half of taxes assessed for the current year shall become due and payable in November 2013 or what they will do related thereto
- D. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to authorize the Tax Collector or Treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 M.S.R.A. Section 506.
- E. If the Inhabitants accept the previous section, what, if any, interest shall the Inhabitants pay on these prepaid taxes? (If the Inhabitants vote to pay interest, the interest rate cannot be more than 8%.) Selectmen recommend 0%.
- F. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate from overlay to pay tax abatements and applicable interest granted during the fiscal year 2013.
- G. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to set the interest rate to be paid by the Town on abated taxes pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A Section 506-A. Selectmen recommend a rate of 5%.

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd—Ann Bridges) to approve Article 3 as read & recommended. E. Berry stated that he would like to see tax bills out earlier. **Motion carried.***

Article 4. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to authorize the municipal officers to make final determinations regarding the closing and opening of roads to winter maintenance pursuant to 23 M.S.R.A. Section 2953.

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Ann Bridges) to approve Article 4 as read & recommended. **Motion carried.***

Article 5. To see if the Inhabitants will authorize the Selectmen to procure a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) for the purpose of paying municipal indebtedness; such note to be repaid during the current fiscal year from taxes paid during the municipal year.

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Ann Bridges) to approve Article 5 as read & recommended. **Motion carried.***

Article 6. To see if the Inhabitants will authorize the Municipal Officers to apply for, accept, and expend grant money available from the State of Maine, Federal Government, or other organizations for any public purpose when they deem it to be in the town's best interest and needed matching funds are available within the current budget.

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Ann Bridges) to approve Article 6 as read & recommended. **Motion carried.***

Article 7. To see if the Inhabitants will authorize the Municipal Officers to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12 of the budgeted amount of the previous annual budget during the period from January 1, 2014 to the Annual Town Meeting.

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Ann Bridges) to approve Article 7 as read & recommended. **Motion carried.***

Article 8. To see if the Inhabitants will authorize the Municipal Officers to sell and dispose of any tax acquired property by the following procedure; acquiring a fair market value on the property, set a minimum bid amount, and to place said property out to bid. Then to award the property on such terms as they deem to be in the best interest of the town and to execute Quit Claim Deeds for such property.

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Ann Bridges) to approve Article 8 as read & recommended. **Motion carried.***

Article 9. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to accept gifts of money, equipment, or other articles for the town. (All gifts to become property of the town)

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Ann Bridges) to approve Article 9 as read & recommended. **Motion carried.***

Article 10. To see if the Inhabitants will accept funds from, but not limited to, the following potential revenue sources:

- A. Municipal Revenue Sharing
- B. Local Road Assistance
- C. State Aid for Education
- D. Civil Emergency Funds
- E. Tree Growth Reimbursement
- F. Veteran's Exemption Reimbursement
- G. Homestead Exemption Reimbursement
- H. General Assistance Reimbursement

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Ann Bridges) to approve Article 10 as read & recommended. **Motion carried.***

Article 11. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to appropriate all of the money received from the State for snowmobile registrations to the Embden Travelers Snowmobile Club for the maintenance of their system of trails and bridges open in snow season to the public within the Town of Embden.

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Ann Bridges) to approve Article 11 as read & recommended. M. Pierce asked what that amount usually was. B. Baker replied that the town had not received any money in 2012. J. Duff added that in 2011, the amount was \$1,019. **Motion carried.***

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to carry the following account balances forward into their respective accounts. (Account balances as of Dec. 31st, 2012):

<u>BALANCE FORWARD ACCOUNTS</u>	<u>2013 REQUEST</u>
Community Center	\$ 6,580
Capital Improvement Fund	\$107,475
Assessors Account	\$ 4,099
Tax Map Account	\$ 6,808
Planning Board Account	\$ 9,338
E-911 Account	\$ 2,482
Animal Control Account	\$ 2,365
Highways & Bridges (Summer Roads)	\$ 32,655
Recreation Account	\$ 9,408
Technology Account	\$ 6,159
Regulations & Manuals	\$ 3,746
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen	Total: \$191,115

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Ann Bridges) to approve Article 12 as read & recommended. **Motion carried.***

Article 13. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to enter into a rental agreement with the Embden Community Club. This agreement shall be for the sole purpose of allowing the Embden Community Club to manage the daily operations of the Embden Community Center. Under this agreement, all revenues paid to the Town of Embden, shall be placed into the existing carried forward community center maintenance account that are to be used exclusively for building utilities and ancillary operating expenses, daily maintenance, and improvements for the Embden Community Center building. All programming revenues or expenses shall be retained or paid by the Embden Community Club, as an individual entity, separate from the Town of Embden.

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Ann Bridges) to approve Article 13 as read & recommended. M. Pierce asked if there would be a lease amount charged to the ECC. C. Taylor replied that it would be the same lease as 2 years ago, which stipulated only a fee of \$1. He added that the BOS would need to review the lease. M. Pierce asked whether this was the year that the townspeople were supposed to vote on whether to keep the building. C. Taylor replied that last year at town meeting it was voted to make the building a Red Cross shelter, which meant the building had to continue to be used. M. Pierce asked what the conditions were to be qualified as a RC shelter and whether they had been met. C. Taylor stated that one of the town's EMA Directors was working on procuring a generator. R. Hatch asked if there was a limit to the rental agreement. C. Taylor read the proposed lease. **Motion carried.***

Article 14. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$82,000 from taxation for compensation, applicable taxes, training, and other related expenses for the Municipal Officials or what they will do related thereto

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Eric Morrill) to approve Article 14 as read & recommended. **Motion carried.***

Article 15. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 from surplus for legal expenses or what they will do related thereto (If required, any additional funding to be from Surplus)

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Ann Bridges) to approve Article 15 as read & recommended. **Motion carried.***

Article 16. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,400 from surplus for membership, dues, etc. in civic organizations. (i.e., KVCOG, SEDC, MMA, MTCCA, MTCTA, MAAO, etc.)

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Ann Bridges) to approve Article 16 as read & recommended. **Motion carried.***

Article 17. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,000 from taxation for all insurance policies, (e.g.; worker's comp., building, equipment, etc.) or what they will do related thereto

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Ann Bridges) to approve Article 17 as read & recommended. **Motion carried.***

Article 18. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000 from taxation for audit of the 2012 town books, expenses for holding Town Meeting(s), and for printing of the Annual Town Report or what they will do related thereto

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Ann Bridges) to approve Article 18 as read & recommended. **Motion carried.***

Article 19. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,950 from taxation for unanticipated expenses or what they will do related thereto

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Ann Bridges) to approve Article 19 as read & recommended. **Motion carried.***

Article 20. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000 from taxation for the yearly repair and maintenance of all town owned buildings, structures, and property or what they will do related thereto

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Ann Bridges) to approve Article 20 as read & recommended. **Motion carried.***

Article 21. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 from surplus for the Capital Improvement Fund, for the purpose of capital improvement projects for any town owned buildings or structures or what they will do related thereto

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Ann Bridges) to approve Article 21 as read & recommended. E. Morrill asked what the intent was for this money. C. Taylor stated that the only project left on the list to do was the dam. He added that they were up against the uncertainty of what the cost would be. He explained that they had an engineer, and had gone to the Army Corp of Engineers, but had not gotten approval for the project until December 22nd. He added that the one firm which had bid on the project had proposed a cost of \$218,400. C. Taylor read an email from the engineer. He stated that he did not want to come back to the townspeople in August and ask for additional funds. He added that the BOS was asking to slide \$100k into the Capital account, which if not used, could be moved back to surplus or kept in the capital reserve account at the end of the year, depending on what the townspeople wanted. He stated that the engineer was reducing the scope of the project, and it would be put out to bid in the newspaper. **Motion carried.***

Article 22. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,000.00 from taxation for utilities (fuel, electricity, telephone, internet, mowing, trash removal, cleaning, etc.) or what they will do related thereto

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Ann Bridges) to approve Article 22 as read & recommended. **Motion carried.***

Article 23. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000 from taxation for supplies and equipment used to run the operations of the town office or what they will do related thereto

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Ann Bridges) to approve Article 23 as read & recommended. **Motion carried.***

Article 24. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 from taxation for annual licensing and maintenance fee for the Municipal Software from Trio Software Company.

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Ann Bridges) to approve Article 24 as read & recommended. **Motion carried.***

Article 25. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to combine the carried forward sum of \$3,746 from Regulations & Manuals with the carried forward sum of \$6,159 in the Technology Account for the purpose of creating a Information/Technology Account or what they will do related thereto

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Ann Bridges) to approve Article 25 as read & recommended. C. Taylor explained that the town rarely bought paper manuals anymore, because everything was now online. **Motion carried.***

Article 26. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,355 from surplus for compensation, applicable taxes, training, and other related expenses for Tax Assessment or what they will do related thereto

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Eric Morrill) to approve Article 26 as read & recommended. **Motion carried.***

Article 27. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,700 from taxation for the Tax Map Maintenance Account or what they will do related thereto (this amount includes \$4,500 for Embden’s share of the Embden/New Portland town line marking)

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Ann Bridges) to approve Article 27 as read & recommended. C. Taylor stated they had been trying to get New Portland to work on the town line, but they had not put it in their town warrant to do so. R. Hatch made a motion (2nd – Raymond Young) to amend the article to include the Anson Town Line. Amendment carried. **Motion carried as amended.***

Article 28. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,250 from surplus for compensation, applicable taxes, training, and other related expenses for the Planning Board or what they will do related thereto

*Ann Bridges made a motion (2nd–Eric Morrill) to approve Article 28 as read & recommended. **Motion carried.***

Article 29. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,850 from surplus for compensation, applicable taxes, training, and other related expenses for the Appeals Board or what they will do related thereto

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Ann Bridges) to approve Article 29 as read & recommended. **Motion carried.***

Article 30. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$11,950 from excise, for compensation, applicable taxes, training, and other related expenses for Code Enforcement or what they will do related thereto

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Eric Morrill) to approve Article 30 as read & recommended. **Motion carried.***

Article 31. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$42,000 from taxation for contracted fire protection and authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a fire protection agreement with a fire protection provider or what they will do related thereto

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Elfin Berry) to approve Article 31 as read & recommended. E. Morrill remarked that the article did not state who the provider would be. C. Taylor replied that the BOS felt that the townspeople had made it clear at the last town meeting that they preferred Anson Fire, so the board planned to continue contracting with the Town of Anson for fire protection. Eric Morrill made a motion (2nd – Eric Baker) to amend the article to specify that fire protection would be provided by the Anson Fire Department. Amendment carries. **Motion carried as amended.***

Article 32. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,000 from taxation for the annual rental of fire hydrants to the Madison Water District pursuant to 35-A M.S.R.A. Section 107 or what they will do related thereto

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Ann Bridges) to approve Article 32 as read & recommended. Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd – Ann Bridges) to amend the article to read “to the Anson-Madison Water District”. Amendment carries. **Motion carried as amended.***

Article 33. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 from taxation for emergency services to Anson-Madison-Starks (AMS) Ambulance Service or what they will do related thereto

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Eric Morrill) to approve Article 33 as read & recommended. **Motion carried.***

Article 34. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 from taxation for Town E911 signs and maintenance or what they will do related thereto

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Ann Bridges) to approve Article 34 as read & recommended. **Motion carried.***

Article 35. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,525 from surplus, for Animal Control or what they will do related thereto

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Ann Bridges) to approve Article 35 as read & recommended. **Motion carried.***

Article 36. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to pay all Town hired labor and equipment at the prevailing State of Maine hourly rate or what they will do related thereto

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Ann Bridges) to approve Article 36 as read & recommended. **Motion carried.***

Article 37. To see if the Inhabitants will permit the Municipal Officers and/or Road Commissioner to use URIP Block Grant money, within the dedicated account for improvements to Town maintained roads and/or bridges, not to exceed the year ending balance of \$56,293. Municipal Officers, elected and appointed, recommend.

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Ann Bridges) to approve Article 37 as read & recommended. C. Taylor stated that M. Witham did not have any specific projects which would require the town to spend the URIP money this year. **Motion carried.***

Article 38. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000 for repair and maintenance of bridges, roads, and culverts, dedicated for use by the Road Commissioner, or what they will do related thereto (Municipal Officers, elected and appointed recommend \$125,000 from taxation and \$75,000 from excise.)

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Ann Bridges) to approve Article 38 as read & recommended. **Motion carried.***

Article 39. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$224,000 for the winter roads contract or what they will do related thereto (Municipal Officers, elected and appointed recommend \$175,000 from taxation and \$49,000 from surplus.)

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Ann Bridges) to approve Article 39 as read & recommended. **Motion carried.***

Article 40. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 from taxation for solid waste disposal to Waste Management, Inc. or what they will do related thereto

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Eric Morrill) to approve Article 40 as read & recommended. E. Berry asked whether there was a closer service the town could contract with. C. Taylor replied that they had researched this in the past and this was the most cost-effective option. **Motion carried.***

Article 41. To see if the Inhabitants will raise and appropriate \$2,000 from excise for the purpose of General Assistance administered by the town or what they will do related thereto (Any additional funds, if needed, to be withdrawn from Surplus)

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Michael Malesky) to approve Article 41 as read & recommended. **Motion carried.***

Article 42. To see if the Inhabitants will raise and appropriate the recommended amount from surplus for the following Social Services and Charities or what they will do related thereto

A. Stewart Public Library	\$ 1000.00
B. Hospice	\$ 200.00
C. Senior Spectrum	\$ 800.00
D. Family Violence	\$ 500.00
E. Solon Food Cupboard	\$ 2000.00
F. Madison Food Cupboard	\$ 2000.00
G. Baker Mountain	\$ 500.00
H. American Red Cross	\$ 300.00
I. KVCAP	\$ 300.00
J. Sunset Cemetery	\$ 1000.00
K. Madison Public Library	\$ 500.00
L. Sexual Assault Crisis & Support Center	\$ 300.00
M. Maine Public Broadcasting System	\$ 100.00
Total:	\$9,500.00

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Ann Bridges) to approve Article 42 as read & recommended. **Motion carried.***

Article 43. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 from surplus and appropriate the revenues collected in program fees for compensation, applicable taxes, program funding, and other related expenses for the Embden Recreation Department or what they will do related thereto

*Raymond Bournival made a motion (2nd–Ann Bridges) to approve Article 43 as read & recommended. E. Morrill asked what was going on in the area for Rec. programs. D. Barron replied that this past year had been kind of quiet. He stated he was hoping to get things organized this spring, however he worked and didn't get home until 16:00. E. Pratt added that there was a swim program, and every Monday night the ECCtr was open for anyone to come in and use the gym. **Motion carried.***

Article 44. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 from taxation plus interest from the Mary Ann Burns trust fund for use, dedicated for maintenance of cemeteries within the town or what they will do related thereto

*Michael Malesky made a motion (2nd–Ann Bridges) to approve Article 44 as read & recommended. **Motion carried.***

Article 45. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,100 from surplus for compensation, and applicable taxes for the town's Emergency Management Department or what they will do related thereto

*Ann Bridges made a motion (2nd–Dwight Barron) to approve Article 45 as read & recommended. **Motion carried.***

Article 46. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to increase the property tax levy limit established for the Town of Embden by State Law in the event that the municipal budget approved by the proposed articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit.

*Dwight Barron made a motion (2nd–Michael Malesky) to approve Article 46 as read & recommended. A written vote was taken and counted. **Motion carried 34-7.***

The moderator swore in the Town Clerk/Treasurer.

*Bruce Blake made a motion to adjourn. **Meeting was adjourned at 14:20.***

*Minutes submitted by:
Bonnie A. Baker*